STATE SENATOR - MICHAEL PRUSI - 38TH DISTRICT

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7840 • Fax: 517-373-3932

E-mail: senmprusi@senate.micbigan.gov • www.senate.state.mi.us/dem/SD38



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Contact: Senator Mike Prusi Phone:

517-373-7840

Toll Free: 866-305-2038

PRUSI BILL ALLOWING EMERGENCY VEHICLES TO CROSS MACKINAC BRIDGE WITHOUT PAYING TOLL PASSES SENATE

LANSING – The Senate today unanimously passed Senator Mike Prusi's legislation that will allow emergency vehicles to cross the Mackinac Bridge without paying a toll. The legislation (Senate Bill 467) will cover ambulances, police and fire automobiles, and federally recognized non-profit agencies such as the Red Cross vehicles.

"During an emergency every second lost can be matter of life or death," Prusi said. "Emergency vehicles responding to a crisis have enough to deal with without the additional burden of digging out change for the toll booth."

Currently, emergency vehicles must stop and pay toll before crossing the bridge, even during an emergency run. Ambulances frequently cross the bridge while transporting patients to and from the Upper Peninsula for urgent care needs. Other emergency vehicles from neighboring communities also traverse the bridge to provide urgent assistance, including the Michigan State Police officers stationed in St. Ignace.

Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th Senate District, which includes 13 of the 15 Upper Peninsula counties.

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Editor's Note: Sen. Prusi's most recent photo is available for download; please visit his web site at: http://www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/Graphics/pressphotos/SD38PrusiPortrait.jpg